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in every classroom!***



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March 2, 2016

## **HB 5465 An Act Authorizing the Establishment of a Dual Language Magnet School and a STEM Magnet School**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, as Superintendent of the Windham Public Schools I would like to support HB 5465 An act authorizing the establishment of a dual language magnet school. The Windham school district is a diverse district which has a comprehensive investment in dual language learning through the Compañeros program. This program currently serves children in the Windham district who choose to enter a lottery for participation. This program is housed in different schools throughout the district. Opening an inter-district magnet school with an emphasis on dual language learning would enable children and families from surrounding districts to participate. This would provide the opportunity to bring all of the Compañeros students together in one building thus increasing the number of students who would be able to participate, improve access to resources, and create a learning community which supports language acquisition in both English and Spanish. This would also enable the Windham Public Schools to offer the Compañeros program through high school. Thank you.

The creation of an inter-district STEM or STEAM Magnet High School would provide opportunities for students who are currently attending the Barrows STEM School to continue their education in Windham. This would also enable our students to develop the college and career readiness skills necessary for post-graduation. There are many smaller schools in the region which are struggling to provide a comprehensive high school education to their students. Having a regional magnet school available would open doors for students of diverse cultures to come together for learning. A concentration in the STEM or STEAM areas would prepare our students to be competitive for college admissions and level professional careers. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Garcia, Ph.D.  
Superintendent